

Two surrender in killings

FEB 19 1979

Oakland—Two young men surrendered to police yesterday as suspects in separate murders.

Rondell Johnson turned himself in as a suspect in the shooting of Paul Mims in a room of the Airport Travelodge Motel Saturday.

Police were called to the motel after Berkeley attorney Thomas Roland telephoned the motel manager to ask if police were investigating a murder there. The manager was unaware of the shooting but called police to investigate.

Roland said a juvenile client was among four people in the room when Mims, 19, was shot by one of the other occupants.

The juvenile later contacted Roland, who took him to the police department where he told investigators about the shooting. He was released after questioning.

But Johnson, also 19, surrendered later and was held for investigation of murder. The other person is being sought for questioning, police said.

While police were investigating that case, Donnell Ward walked in with several family members and surrendered as one of the suspects in the killing of a 65-year-old security guard during a robbery of an East Oakland food store Feb. 5.

Ward, 18, was booked for investigation of murder and robbery.

Russell Jones, a sergeant with Bennett's Security Patrol, was working at Booker's Grocery on 90th Avenue when one of two gunmen shot him in the head after he was disarmed. The robbers then forced two clerks to hand over the money from the cash register and fled with Jones' gun.

Murder suspect to be charged in slaying try

By Harry Harris
Tribune Staff Writer

When Rondell Johnson left Alameda County Superior Court Monday, he was charged with the murder of Paul Mims.

When he comes back Thursday, he will also be charged with the attempted murder of Mims' brother, Solomon.

The additional charges were brought Tuesday because police say Johnson opened fire on Mims' car Monday just a short time after his murder trial was continued until Thursday.

Johnson was free on \$60,000 bail on the murder and a probation violation charge, both stemming from the shooting death of Paul Mims last

Feb. 17 following an argument in an East Oakland motel room.

Court sources said Johnson posted a \$10,000 bail bond to gain his freedom Nov. 19.

Sgt. Garry Furry said that Johnson and Solomon Mims were "not real fond of each other."

Although not a witness, Mims had attended most of Johnson's court appearances, including the one Monday.

After the trial was continued, Furry said Johnson followed Mims' car to the intersection of 13th Avenue and East 17th Street, where three shots were fired at Mims and his cousin, Victor Young, 17.

Neither Mims, Young nor the car was hit. Police were called, and a lookout was broadcast for Johnson.

He was spotted about 5 p.m. and was arrested in the 5800 block of MacArthur Boulevard. Inside his car, police say they found two handguns.

For the alleged attack on Solomon Mims, Johnson was charged with attempted murder and being an ex-convict with a gun. He was also charged with assault with a deadly weapon for his alleged attempt to ram Mims' car with his own two weeks ago, Furry said.

His bail on the latest charges was set at \$100,000. Meanwhile, Deputy District Attorney Harry Trayback got the bail in the murder case raised to the same amount.

Selection of murder jury set

JAN 26 1980

Jury selection in the murder trial of Rondell Johnson, accused of the shooting death last February of Paul Mims, is scheduled Monday in Alameda County Superior Court.

The case is assigned to Judge Richard Bartalini.

Johnson is also scheduled to enter a plea in Oakland Municipal Court Jan. 30 to charges he attempted to kill Mims' brother, Solomon. That allegedly occurred Monday when police say Johnson took three shots at Mims and his cousin. No one was hit.

Johnson was out on bail from the murder charge when the alleged shooting occurred.

In Municipal Court Johnson faces charges of attempted murder, being an ex-convict with a gun and assault with a deadly weapon.

In a story in The Tribune Wednesday, it was stated the assault with a deadly weapon charge was filed because Johnson tried to ram Mims' car with his own a few weeks ago.

Actually, it was not Mims' car that was rammed but that of another individual who police say was giving a ride to a friend of Johnsons. The incident occurred Dec. 30 in the 7700 block of Bancroft Avenue in East Oakland.